




Greg Balogh

Anchorage FWO, AK
short-tailed albatross


 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*)

Threatened and Endangered Species

Status
The short-tailed albatross is listed under the Endangered Species Act as "Endangered" throughout its range and is a priority.

Description
With a wingspan of over 2 meters (over 7 feet), the short-tailed albatross is the largest seabird in the North Pacific. Its long, narrow wings are adapted for soaring over the ocean. It is best distinguished from other albatrosses by its large, hooked bill. Young birds also have the large pink bill, but their bodies are dark (juvenile reverse), gradually turning white as the bird ages. Adults have an orange-brown head, neck, and upper breast and back of neck, and have white wings.



The largest of three albatross species found in the North Pacific Ocean, short-tailed albatrosses are best distinguished by their large, hooked bills (adults will break tip). Adults, like the red-tailed albatross, are black and white with a light-colored head. Although younger birds can be much darker, they will have the large pink bill. Photo by Dennis Hargrave.

